

Obering. Dr. W. Heumann
Botanisches Institut
und Botanischer Garten
der Technischen Hochschule
Braunschweig

(20b) Braunschweig, den June 14th 1956
Humboldtstraße 1 · Ruf: 20191 / Apparat 213

Professor Dr. Joshua Lederberg
University of Wisconsin
College of Agriculture
Department of Genetics
Madison 6/Wisc.- USA

Dear Professor Lederberg,

A fortnight ago Dr. Ørskov and his wife came to see me. It has been great pleasure for me to meet him, and I am much indebted to you for kindly arranging this meeting. I am convinced that Dr. Ørskov and me and that both our wives will get on very well together. During our stay in Madison we shall try to rent a house together. My wife will then take care of Mrs. Ørskov's little daughter, thus enabling her to do her own work, whilst our financial situation will improve.

It is a great pity that the negotiations with the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft take an awfully long time. As a rule three experts have to be asked for their opinion before an application is granted. In case their reports differ, further experts have to be consulted. These negotiations are of course confidential, and I only get to know the final decision. The fact that the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft has not yet answered in the affirmative makes me fear that my application has met difficulties and that the consultation of further experts has become necessary. That brings about at least a delay of my journey - perhaps even a refusal of my application. On no account I shall be able to go to Madison in the middle of August, as intended. The earliest date will be the middle of October. That would on the other hand fit much better with the plans of Dr. Ørskov.

A refusal of my application would, as a matter of fact, lead to serious consequences for my scientific and private career. In consideration of this situation I should like to ask you, if you think it perhaps advisable, once more to support my application with the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft. I am sure that the authority of your name would be of importance.

In case my application should be refused, I want to ask you, if there might be a possibility for me in Madison, to earn my living and that of my family by scientific work on my field of occupation. In case of need my family could remain for a while in Germany, and my wife could take a half day's job, in order to earn enough money for herself and our little daughter. As to my passage, my father would help me to manage.

-2- Professor Dr. Lederberg, Madison

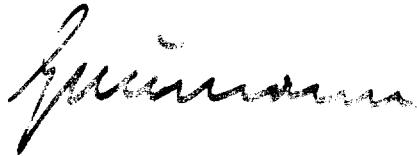
To ask you to engage a German scientist, whose work is rejected by some of his own people, may perhaps be more than is fair. However, the new results on the field of bacterial genetics and bacterial sexuality seem to be so very strange and extraordinary to many of the colleagues in our country that this may explain their reserve.

Still my application is running, and has not been refused yet. But I should like to find out beforehand, if -in case of refusal- there should be a possibility to get a place at your Institute for some time. To work there would be very important and a great chance for me, for the Institute at Brunswick disposes of very small means only, which do not allow me any help or assistant - on the contrary the lecturing I have to do and all the necessary preparations in connection therewith take up nearly all my time and leave me only very few hours for my own scientific work.

My publication on the sexual cycle of starforming bacteria, of which I have sent you a copy, is in press now and will soon come out in the "Archiv für Mikrobiologie", which is edited by Professor Rippel, University, Göttingen.-

Howsoever the matter will turn out, I do hope that there will be a possibility for me to do research work at your Institute.

I am, very sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Hermann', written in a cursive style.